

Obituaries

Sydney Gottlieb

General practitioner who became a leading psychiatrist to jazz musicians, actors, and writers

Syd came to England from South Africa in 1938 and started his medical training at Liverpool University. An active member of the Communist Party, he was sent down for his involvement in industrial action by dockyard workers. However, St George's Hospital Medical School, London, offered him a place on the understanding that he would give up his political activities. To his credit—and to that of St George's—he graduated despite continuing these activities, although his supremacy on the rugby field may have held some weight.

He trained in chest medicine, joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, and witnessed the horrors of Belsen concentration camp at first hand when he joined the liberating forces to deal with the tuberculosis that was endemic among the survivors. In 1945 he established Merano Sanatorium in northern Italy, and was its medical director until 1950. The sanatorium was dedicated to the treatment of concentration camp survivors, particularly those from Auschwitz.

Syd returned to London as a general practitioner in 1950 and cofounded the Caversham Health Centre, a pioneer group practice in Kentish Town. From 1959 to 1982 he worked mainly singlehanded in the Lemon Street Surgery in Whitechapel. Here he served one of the most deprived communities in the United Kingdom and devoted much of his time to the care of homeless alcoholics. During this time he was visiting physician to Brady House Rehabilitation Centre for unemployed people, as well as to the Shipping Federation, various embassies, and Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho.



Syd was always struck by the psychological needs of his patients, from the shattered lives of the concentration camp survivors to the chaotic worlds of East End alcoholics and drug addicts and the fragile sensibilities of jazz musicians. He trained in psychiatry and in 1965 began a private psychotherapy practice alongside his work as a general practitioner, going full time in 1982. He became a leading psychiatrist to performing artists, and made possible the work of many jazz and classical musicians, actors and comedians, as well as writers, dons, doctors, and businessmen. His income from these patients enabled him to help those who were financially less fortunate, and he rarely refused a referral from any source. He was able to unearth and nurture a person's

talent, and in his therapeutic work he painstakingly used this skill to rebuild the shattered and reorganise the chaotic.

Adrian Mitchell celebrated Syd's life in his poem "Sydney Gottlieb's 80th Birthday" (in *All Shook Up*, Bloodaxe Books, 2000). Syd had no time for pomposity or convention, but he had an enormous capacity for joy, an enthusiasm for life that inspired all who knew him, and an insatiable curiosity. He studied masters courses in biochemistry and in brain studies, and—in addition to his deep familiarity with music, art, and literature (particularly Shakespeare)—he was an authority on the works of Balzac. He was a constantly entertaining companion, whether he was warbling *Git Along Little Dawgie* at the piano or arguing the most abstruse complexities of the mind-body problem. He was also an accomplished photographer and a keen sailor, and he had no shortage of eager crews on his restaurant hopping voyages along the French coast.

He married Gay in 1964, and, including children from his and Gay's previous marriages, enjoyed a large and devoted family whose impressive accomplishments reflect their refreshingly liberal and supportive upbringings. Syd never completely retired, and his patients remained loyal when he and Gay moved from Highgate to Chipping Norton in 1992. [RICHARD O'BRIEN]

Sydney Gottlieb, psychiatrist, former chest physician, and general practitioner (b Moltene, South Africa, 1917; q St George's 1943), died in Horton Hospital, Banbury, Oxfordshire, on 18 September 2001 following a heart attack.

Nicholas John Chamberlain

Former general practitioner Kings Lynn (b Kings Lynn 1944; q Edinburgh 1969; FRCP), died from oesophageal cancer on 29 September 2001. Nick returned to his beloved East Anglia to work in the same practice all his life. He held hospital posts in occupational medicine and genitourinary medicine. He was also a GP trainer and Vocational Training Scheme course organiser. Nick was influential in West Norfolk primary care, being chairman of the local fundholding group and a member of the executive board of the local

primary care organisation. He played tennis and golf and was an accomplished gardener. He leaves a wife, Penny, and a daughter. [JOHN GALLOWAY, PETER TASKER]

James Allan Garrett

Consultant surgeon Stobhill General Hospital, Glasgow, 1968-82 (b 1928; q Glasgow 1951; FRCS Glas & Ed), died on 16 October 2001. He spent his national service in Malaya, serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

During his time at Stobhill, he was appointed convener of the operating suite, which he thought of as one of the best in the country. Allan was a keen tennis player, as well as a good golfer. He enjoyed watching many different sports, but especially the rugby internationals at Murrayfield. He leaves a wife, Margaret, and two children. [STEVEN K GARRETT]



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Alan Hadfield Gowenlock



Former consultant chemical pathologist Central Manchester Healthcare Trust (b Oldham 1923; q Manchester 1953; PhD, FRCPath), died from prostate cancer on 26 July 2001.

He worked with Sir Douglas Black on the problems of body fluid compartmentalisation before becoming senior lecturer and then reader in chemical pathology at Manchester University. His appointment as consultant chemical pathologist in 1968 was the first in the north west. As the first secretary of the scientific committee (1963-4) of the Association of Clinical Biochemists, he was involved in organising one of the first interlaboratory surveys in the United Kingdom. It was from this that external quality assessment schemes in clinical laboratories developed. Predeceased by his first wife, Joyce, he leaves his second wife, Thelma, and three children. [H FAY, C J SENEVIRATNE]

Raymond John Harvey

Former general practitioner Merton Park, London, and anaesthetist Nelson and Wimbledon Hospitals, Merton (b Merton Park 1916; q St Bartholomew's 1941), d 7 September 2001.

In 1942 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, taking part in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. His was the first medical unit to enter Tunis. He was at the battle for Monte Cassino and the fall of Rome, and was one of the first to enter Venice, ending the war as assistant medical officer of health in Trieste and Venezia-Guilia. He was then major on a troopship in the Mediterranean, returning prisoners of war. His abiding interest was electrical technology, especially sound recording. As a student in the 1930s he recorded heartbeats. Predeceased by his son, he leaves a wife, Pam; a daughter; and five grandchildren. [PAMELA HARVEY]

John ("Hans") Horton

Former general practitioner St Albans (b 1916; q St Mary's Hospital 1946), died peacefully on 30 October after a long illness.

Hans studied medicine in Vienna before going to St Mary's, where he received glowing testimonials and was advised to pursue an academic career. But as he was a mature student with a young family, a career

in general practice beckoned. Hans practised in St Albans for more than 30 years, doing sessions in minor surgery, and serving on the local medical committee. He could turn his hands or his mind to anything, building his own boat to sail in and his own classical guitar to learn on. Predeceased by his first wife, Anny, he leaves his second wife, Edith; two children; and three grandchildren. [ROBERT HORTON]

Lilian Kerr



Former area specialist community medicine (child health) Camden and Islington Area Health Authority (b Glasgow 1917; q Glasgow 1944; FFCM, FRCPC), d 28 September 2001.

She pioneered the first summer school for obese schoolgirls, 20 of whom were chosen to spend three weeks in 1971 at a house in Essex with two teachers, a school nurse, a dietitian, and a cook-housekeeper. The girls, aged 11 or 12, were taught about healthy eating and the value of exercise. Follow up after the school showed that many continued to lose weight. In recognition of her contribution to community paediatrics Lilian became an honorary consultant to the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street. She spoke several languages and had a natural ability to write simply and effectively. Outside medicine, she had a lifelong interest in literature. [ALLAN KERR]

Sydney Mander Laird



Former consultant genitourinary physician West Dorset hospitals (b Kilmacoll 1911; q Glasgow 1934; MD, FRCP), died from pneumonia on 2 September 2001.

As a member of the World Health Organization's Syphilis Study Commission,

he visited the United States and led a team to Ceylon to set up a modern VD service. In 1954 he moved to Manchester as senior consultant. After a life threatening illness, he sought less stressful service in West Dorset, retiring in 1975. Among the most notable contributions to his specialty were prevention of syringe transmitted hepatitis in clinics, and a lead in public education and contact tracing. For 15 years he was editor of the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*. Blindness overtook him in 1979 but did not stop him typing and publishing his autobiography. Predeceased by his wife, Gwen, he leaves three children and five grandchildren. [ROBERT S MORTON, RATISH B ROY]

Kenneth Marshall

Former general practitioner Brighouse, West Yorkshire (b 1917; q Leeds 1941), died on 16 August 2001.

After a few brief hospital jobs, he entered the navy and spent most of the second world war at sea. He joined the practice in Brighouse in 1947 and retired 40 years later. While in the practice, he was also a police surgeon and held a hospital post in psychiatry. His first wife, Lottie, predeceased him in 1987. He leaves his second wife, Nancy; two children; and four grandchildren. [P J A O'CARROLL]

Arumugam Sittampalam

Former consultant forensic psychiatrist Broadmoor Hospital (b Jaffna, Sri Lanka, 30 November 1922; q Colombo 1949; FRCP Ed, FRSM), died on 4 September after a stroke.

He worked for the Ceylon health service as the senior psychiatrist from 1957 to 1971. After leaving Sri Lanka in 1971 he went first to Canada, where he was a senior psychiatrist in Saskatchewan. But Canada was not to his liking and he came to the United Kingdom and worked as medical officer at Brixton prison. In 1979 he became a consultant forensic psychiatrist at Rampton Hospital, Nottinghamshire, which meant being parted from his family who were in London. When a position arose as consultant at Broadmoor Hospital in Berkshire in 1981 he took it. Predeceased by his eldest son, he leaves a wife, Puaneswary, and five children. [GANESH SITTAMPALAM]

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